

Thursday April 14

Oral Session VI
Novel Approaches to Antiviral Agent Design
and Evaluation

SUGAR MODIFIED OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR THE DESIGN OF POTENTIAL ANTIVIRAL AGENTS

J.L. IMBACH and B. RAYNER

Laboratoire de Chimie Bio-Organique, Université des Sciences et
Techniques du Languedoc, U.A. 488 du C.N.R.S., Place Bataillon,
34060 Montpellier Cedex, France.

Anti-sens oligonucleotides as potential inhibitors of gene expression through specific binding to mRNA are one of the most promising approach for anti-viral research. For that purpose oligonucleotides modified on the phosphate backbone (ie methylphosphonate, phosphorothioate...) have been proposed by various laboratories. We would like to present here new kinds of oligonucleotides but modified on the sugar moiety (ie α oligonucleotides) of each nucleosidic components, in order to increase their nucleases stability and their binding properties. Up to date data, ranging from synthesis and biophysics to molecular biology experiments will be presented, and commented.